

Ashley Falls Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2021

The meeting, held at the Bushnell Sage Library Program Room, was called to order by Chairperson Lou Levine at 5:00 p.m. Members Phil Ghi, Sally MacKenzie and Sandra Preston were present. The Chair asked Alternate Member Catherine Miller to be a voting Member for the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Catherine and seconded by Phil that the meeting minutes of October 7, 2021 and November 3, 2021 be approved. All voted in favor.

Report on recent activity relevant to the AFHDC

- Lou shared with the Commission a letter of complaint forwarded to him from Select Board Chairperson Rene Wood. The original correspondence in the email thread forwarded by Chairperson Wood was initiated by Carol Wachs in regards to renovation work at 1151 Ashley Falls Road.
 - After reviewing the letter point by point against AFHDC documentation on the project at 1151 Ashley Falls Road, it was moved by Phil and seconded by Catherine that a response should be immediately drafted and sent to the Select Board. The letter will reference the Commission's careful fact-checking of Ms. Wachs' claims. Ms. Wachs will be cc'd on the letter. All voted in favor.
- A letter of concern from AF resident Lori Hummel sent directly to Lou was also discussed. Phil moved, and Catherine seconded, that the Commission should invite Ms. Hummel to attend a meeting to fully address her concerns and to clarify to her the role of the AFHDC in the community and her responsibilities as an owner of a property within the District. It was also voted on to extend an invitation to any AF resident to attend such an informational meeting. Both measures were passed unanimously.
- Lou reported that he had sought guidance from Rhonda at Town Hall as to the nature in which we can hold meetings. Meetings may not be a hybrid of in-person and Zoom (or another platform). Meetings must be conducted either entirely on Zoom, or entirely as an in-person event.

Review and possible action on applications received and related matters

- The Commission reviewed an application by Jerry Clemens of 1151 Ashley Falls Road in regards to roofing at his property. The Commission was supportive of the homeowner's choice to change the existing roofing material on the home to slate. Pending no objections put forward by the property's four abutters within the 10-day notification process, Catherine moved and Phil seconded, that a Certificate of Appropriateness be issued. All voted in favor.

- The Commission reviewed an application submitted 90 minutes prior to our scheduled meeting by Jerry Clemens of 1151 Ashley Falls Road in regards to restoration of a shed on his property. The homeowner did not specify the materials to be used in the restoration, but it is our assumption that it will be white clapboard in keeping with present conditions. After reviewing photographs submitted by Mr. Clemens of the southerly view of the shed from the street – which now is obscured by newly planted evergreens – Catherine moved and Phil seconded that a Certificate of Non-Applicability be issue as long as the plantings are maintained so that they continue to obscure the view of the shed. All voted in favor.

The Commission determined that its next meeting will be an in-person meeting to be held on December 14 at 5 p.m. at the Bushnell Sage Library's Program Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m. following a motion by Catherine and seconded by Phil. All approved.

Submitted by:
Sally MacKenzie

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